GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services – Registration and Stamps Department – Surprise check conducted over Sub Registrar Office, Vatluru, West Godavari District on 20-05-2013 – Disciplinary action against Sri D.V.Subba Rao, Village Revenue Officer, Vatluru and Sri K.Suryanarayana Rao, Village Revenue Officer, Pedapadu – Inquiry – Inquiry Report Communicated – Explanations submitted – Examined – Considered - Further action dropped – Exonerated from the charges against Sri Duggirala Venkata Subba Rao, Former Village Revenue Officer, Vatluru, West Godavari District (Now Retired) and Sri Karreddula Suryanarayana Rao, Former Village Revenue Officer, Pedapadu, West Godavari District -Regularization of suspension period as on duty under FR 54 (B)(3)-Orders-Issued.

REVENUE (VIGILANCE-II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.148 **Dated:16.03.2021**

Read the following:-

Ref:- 1.From DG., ACB, Lr.No.22/DES-EWG/2013, dated 19-09-2013.
2.Govt.Memo No.28642/Vig.II(1)/2014-2, dated 10-11-2014.
3.Govt.Memo No.28642/Vig.II(1)/2014-3, dated 10-11-2014.
4.From DG., ACB, Lr.No.22/DES-EWG/2013, dated 19-02-2015.
5.Govt.Memo No.28642/Vig.II(1)/2014-5, dated 09-03-2015.
6.From CCLA, AP, Lr.No.VS.II(3)/823/2013, dated 09-11-2017 along with Lr.No.A1/e-8706/2015, dated 27-10-2017 of District Collector, West Godavari, Eluru and Inquiry Report with connected record.
7.Govt.Memo No.28642/Vig.II(1)/2014-9, dated 27-11-2017.
8.From CCLA, AP, Lr.No.VS.II(3)/823/2013, dt.12-12-2017.
9.Govt.Memo No.28642/Vig.II(1)/2014-11, dated 14-02-2018.
10. Represenation dated 19-06-2018 and 09-07-2018 of Sri D.V.Subba Rao, former VRO, Vatluru, West Godavari District.
11. Represenations dated 19-06-2018 and 09-07-2018 of Sri K.Suryanarayana, former VRO, Pedapadu, West Godavari District.
12.GO Rt No.1715, Revenue (Vigilance.II) Department, Dated.06.12.2018.
13.Represenation dated 05.11.2019 of Sri D.V.Subba Rao, former VRO, Vatluru, West Godavari District.
14.Represenations dated 05.11.2019 of Sri K.Suryanarayana, former VRO, Pedapadu, West Godavari District.

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O R D E R :

Whereas in the reference 1st read above, it has been brought to the notice of the Government that on credible information that the Sub Registrar and the staff of the Office of the Sub Registrar, Vatluru, West Godavari District are indulging in corrupt practices by employing private persons unauthorizedly, a surprise check has been conducted over the said office 20- 05-2013 and that the allegations are sustained and recommended for disciplinary action against certain Charged Officers. In the said report it is further stated that Sri D.Vekata Subba Rao, Village Revenue Officer, Vatluru and Sri K.Suryanarayana Rao, Village Revenue Officer, Pedapadu being responsible servants, are working as document writers unauthorizedly in the office of the Sub Registrar, besides their regular duties of Village Revenue Officer and collecting bribe amounts on behalf of the Sub Registrar and their staff and recommended to initiate departmental action against the above charged officers for violation of Rule 3 (1) and (2) of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964. In the meantime, Sri D.Vekata Subba Rao has retired from service on 28-02- 2014 and Sri K.Suryanarayana Rao has retired from service on 30-06-2013 on superannuation.

(P.T.O)

2. The Government, after examining the matter, have accepted the recommendations made in the detailed report received vide reference 1st read above and requested the District Collector, West Godavari to take necessary action against them duly obtaining the draft Articles of Charge from the Director General, Anti Corruption Bureau, Andhra Pradesh and conclude the proceedings and then refer the matter to the Government for further instructions, vide reference 2nd read above. Further the draft Articles of Charge, received vide reference 4th read above, have been sent to the District Collector, West Godavari and requested to initiate departmental action against them vide reference 5th read above.

3. The Chief Commissioner of Land Administration, vide references 6th and 8th read above, has forwarded the record along with two separate Inquiry Reports in respect of each Charged Officer received from the Collector, West Godavari District for finalizing the disciplinary proceedings against the above two Charged Officers. The Government have communicated the Inquiry Report to the Charged Officers and directed to submit their explanations, if any, on the findings of the Inquiry Authority, vide reference 9th read above.

4. The Charged Officers, vide references 10th and 11th read above, have submitted representations stating that the Surprise Check has been conducted over the Office of the Sub Registrar, Vatluru on the allegations received against the staff working in the said office, but not because of any compliant against them either from the villagers or from any farmer or general public with whom they had regular dealings while discharging their duties. They are not caught while accepting the alleged bribe amount or while handing over the same to the Sub Registrar Office. The above two Charged Officers have further submitted that their nature of duties involve visiting various Government offices to help the farmer community and the amounts found with them at the time of surprise check cannot be termed as bribe amount because in rural areas it is normal practice that farmers after returning from fields in the afternoon give the amounts / taxes and after going to office the receipt will be issued to them.

5. The Charged Officers, in their representations, have further submitted that the Tahsildar, Nallajerla who has been initially appointed as Inquiry Officer to enquire into the charges framed against them vide proceedings dated 23-06-2015, has submitted two separate Inquiry Reports dated 29.02.2016, holding the charges framed against them as not proved. The Collector, West Godavari after examining the matter has opined that the findings of the Inquiry Authority are not agreeable against both the Charged Officers as they are not supported by any documentary evidence and rejected the Inquiry Officer's Report and ordered for fresh enquiry and again appointed the Revenue Divisional Officer, Kovvuru as Inquiry Officer vide proceedings No.A1/2969/201, dated 13-01-2017 in violation of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1991 and requested to exonerate them from the charges.

6. The Government have examined the matter keeping in view the representations submitted by the Charged Officers and observe that the Surprise check over the Office of the Sub Registrar, Valtluru has been conducted by the Anti Corruption Bureau on 20-05-2013 and the surprise check report was received by the Government on 19-09-2013. The draft articles of charge are received on 19-02-2015 and by that time both the charged officers had retired from service on superannuation. As per Rule 9 of Andhra Pradesh Revised Pension Rules, 1980, the Government is the competent authority to initiate disciplinary action against the retired Government Servants. Further observed that the Articles of Charge framed against them by the District Collector, West Godavari District are not valid and the two enquiries conducted in the above case are also not in consonance with the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1991. Further four years limitation period has been lapsed from the date of event and disciplinary action cannot be initiated against them at this stage under Rule 9 (2) (b) (ii) of Andhra Pradesh Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

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7. Whereas, Government after examining the above representations, vide reference 12th cited, have dropped further action against Sri Duggirala Venkata Subba Rao, Former Village Revenue Officer, Vatluru, West Godavari District (Now Retired) and Sri Karreddula Suryanarayana Rao, Former Village Revenue Officer, Pedapadu, West Godavari District and exonerated them from the charge.

8. In the references 13th & 14th cited, Sri D.Venkata Subba Rao, VRO, Vatluru (Retired) and Sri K.Suryanarayana, VRO, Pedapadu (Retired) have submitted separate representations, wherein, they have stated that they were suspended from duties w.e.f. 15.06.2013 vide Procds No. 2969/2013/A1, dated 13.06.2013 and they have retired from service on 28.02.2014 and 30.06.2013 respectively on attaining age of superannuation. Further, they have stated that they were exonerated from their charges vide G.O.Rt.No.1715, Revenue (Vig.II) Department, dated 06.12.2018 and therefore requested to treat the suspension period i.e., from 15.06.2013 to 28.02.2014 in respect of Sri D.Venkata Subba Rao, VRO, Vatluru (Retired) and from 15.06.2013 to 30.06.2013 in respect of Sri K.Suryanarayana, VRO, Pedapadu (Retired) as “On duty”.

9. Government after careful examination of the matter have decided to regularize the suspension period. Accordingly, hereby order to regularize the suspension period in respect of Sri Duggirala Venkata Subba Rao, Former Village Revenue Officer, Vatluru, West Godavari District (Now Retired) and Sri Karreddula Suryanarayana Rao, Former Village Revenue Officer, Pedapadu, West Godavari District, from 15.06.2013 to 28.02.2014 and 15.06.2013 to 30.06.2013, respectively, as “On Duty” under FR 54 (B) (3).

10. The Chief Commissioner of Land Administration, Andhra Pradesh and the District Collector, West Godavari, shall take necessary further action in the matter, accordingly.

11. This order issues with the concurrence of Finance Department vide U.O.No. FIN01- HR0RSPE/36/2019-HR-IV.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

RAJAT BHARGAVA
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Sri D.Vekata Subba Rao, Village Revenue Officer, Vatluru, W.G.District. and Sri K.Suryanarayana Rao, Village Revenue Officer, Pedapadu, W.G.District. (through the Chief Commissioner of Land Administration, Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada)
The Chief Commissioner of Land Administration, Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada (with a request to serve the G.O to the individuals and send the served copy with dated signature to Government)
The District Collector, West Godavari District, Eluru.
Copy to:
The Secretary to Vigilance Commissioner, Andhra Pradesh Vigilance Commission, Andhra Pradesh, Secretariat Building No.5, Velagapudu.
The Director General, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Andhra Pradesh, NTR Administrative Block, Pandit Nehru Bus Station, Vijayawada.
The Finance (HR.IV-FR&LR) Department.
The Law Department.
The Accountant General, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.
The Director, Treasuries & Accounts, Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.
The District Treasury Officer, West Godavari, Eluru.
SF/SC.

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFCIER